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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,957	10/15/2003	Joseph W. Cole	COLEI.0014P	8826
32856	7590	04/06/2004	EXAMINER	
WEIDE & MILLER, LTD. 7251 W. LAKE MEAD BLVD. SUITE 530 LAS VEGAS, NV 89128			MARKS, CHRISTINA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center"><b>Office Action Summary</b></p>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/686,957	<b>Applicant(s)</b> COLE, JOSEPH W.	
	<b>Examiner</b> C. Marks	<b>Art Unit</b> 3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10152003</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IGT Player

Choice Drop-In Bar.

IGT discloses a bar top gaming unit comprising a housing having a base with four sides extending upwardly from the base to define a generally open top of the housing (See FIG 1). The unit also comprises a top panel positioned over the top. As the unit is designed for electronic gaming, there is essentially a controller to configure game data. As also seen in FIG 1, there is a display adapted to display game information generated by the controller and there exists a currency container in the housing.

Above the currency acceptor, it can be seen from the figure there is a locking mechanism mounted to the housing. It can also be seen from the figure that it is a key locking mechanism. As is known in the art, such locking mechanisms use cams rotatable between unlocked and locked positions to secure the device and thus the mechanisms would be obvious

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to the disclosure of IGT. They can be moved between the two by the usage of the key from the exterior of the housing.

Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IGT Player Choice Drop-In Bar in view of Halic (US Patent No. 5,700,195).

IGT discloses a key locking mechanism for the currency container in the machine. However, their disclosure does not support another door that can be locked to prevent the container from being accessed. Halic discloses a bill validator that like the validator of IGT is lockable in of itself (Abstract). However, Halic also discloses placing the validator within the locking bounds of another door (Abstract, FIG 3). Halic discloses that by embodying such a setup only authorized persons can remove the stacker and get access to the interior (Column 3), thus increasing security in the machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Halic into the unit of IGT. One would be motivated to do so to provide a further level of security to the bill mechanism of the IGT unit as disclosed by Halic. By applying the security teachings of Halic to the machine of IGT, a door could be added to further protect the bill mechanism from unauthorized access while still not allowing access to the inside of the machine. Thus, a second level of security would be added to prevent not only the removal of the bill stacker, but also access to it as well.

Regarding claim 3, latch and cam locking mechanisms are known in the art and would be the result of the combination of Halic and IGT where Halic would latch the currency device into place preventing its removal when it is locked and permitting its removal when it is unlocked. Further, the cam would be used within the actual locking mechanism of the currency container into the housing, which prevents the disengaging of the container.

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Regarding claim 4, Halic discloses a panel, as discussed above, to contain the currency unit in its position.

Regarding claim 5, Halic discloses that the panel has its own locking mechanism (FIG 2) to secure the panel between two positions.

Regarding claim 6, the IGT unit has four sides. The locking mechanism is secured to the device, though IGT is silent about as to where. Halic discloses locking the device engaged on the side and such an incorporation would be obvious when applying the door teachings of Halic into the IGT system wherein the container could be locked to the side as part of the door setup.

Regarding claim 7, as evident in both Halic and IGT there exists a lock body extending out of the housing wherein it would be axiomatic the cam portion would be on the inside of the housing as would be required for proper operation of the locking feature.

Regarding claim 8, the currency acceptor of both IGT and Halic includes an opening through which the currency may pass and wherein the slot is located in a panel and is aligned with the currency acceptor when the panel is in the first position. The currency acceptor would only be aligned and working when properly secured in the machine, thus aligning the panels at that time.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**US Patent No. 6,264,556:** Gaming machine with a bill validator that is locked into the machine and enclosed within a door.

**US Patent No. 6,068,101:** Currency device with a locking mechanism on the box itself and is locked into the machine by a door.

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**US Patent No. 5,564,545:** Currency device that can be locked into the gaming machine to prevent unauthorized removal.

**US Patent No. 6,435,970:** Apparatus and method for table game with a money holder deposited under the table and is accessed only by the latch being unsecured.

**US Patent No. 5,676,231:** Bill acceptor that is secured in a gaming machine and can be removed only when it is accessed through an unlocked door.

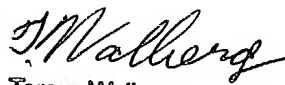
**US Patent No. 6,019,207:** Currency handling machine having an access door with a locking means to lock the device into a predetermined position.

**US Patent No. 5,967,287:** Internally mounted externally lockable and removable currency device that also required cabinet to be unlocked.

**US Patent No. 5,641,157:** Apparatus for validating paper currency and has a lockable door to prevent access.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Marks whose telephone number is (703)-305-7497. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:30AM - 5:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa J Walberg can be reached on (703)-308-1327. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

  
Teresa Walberg  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'cmm', followed by a stylized flourish or mark.

cmm  
April 1, 2004